

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Tymniak Says Voters Oppose Taxpayer Funding of Campaigns



State Rep. Cathy C. Tymniak, R-133rd, Fairfield, Westport, has released the results of her voter survey, showing 77 percent of respondents oppose using tax dollars to fund political campaigns.

In response to a question, “Do you support using taxpayer dollars to fund political campaigns?” 77 percent of the 390 people who responded to Rep. Tymniak’s annual legislative questionnaire replied no, while 18 percent said yes. The remainder did not answer or were undecided.

In other questions, 75 percent of respondents support caps on medical malpractice awards, 72 percent favor eliminating state income taxes on pension benefits and 71 percent oppose efforts to weaken the state’s constitutional cap on spending. Also, 63 percent support increasing state aid to a minimum of \$500 per student, 52 percent said surpluses should be used to pay off debts, 74 percent want state spending to be slowed to deal with state deficits.

“I support reforming the state’s already tough campaign finance and government ethics laws,” said Rep. Tymniak. “However, voters clearly draw the line at any system that gives candidates state funds to subsidize campaign ads, campaign mail and campaign phone calls.”

“The better alternative is to limit the amounts that people and special interest political action committees can contribute,” said Rep. Tymniak. “It is better to close loopholes such as so-called political ad books that allow corporate donations which are otherwise prohibited.”

Rep. Tymniak noted that taxpayer funding of campaigns at the federal level, adopted in 1974, has failed to slow campaign spending in presidential campaigns. Last year, total contributions reported by presidential candidates topped \$800 million, and it was the most expensive campaign in national history, Rep. Tymniak added.

In Connecticut, candidates for state representative last year spent an average of \$16,767, according to the nonpartisan Office of Legislative Research, and candidates for state Senate expended an average \$71,603, reported Rep. Tymniak.

“Money spent on most campaigns in Connecticut is not excessive,” said Rep. Tymniak.
“The public clearly does not support imposing taxpayer funding under the guise of reforming the political system.”